

SENATE DECIDES TO INVESTIGATE MR. STEPHENSON

He Is Eighty-two Years Old and Worth \$20,000,000.

READY FOR THE PROBE

Inside Facts of Wisconsin Politics Will Come Out.

The Quarrel Between La Follette and Stephenson Will Be Attested and the Case Will Prove Sensational—The Election Was State Wide and Not by the Legislature—Interesting Gossip.

Senator Isaac Stephenson, of Wisconsin, eighty-two years old, worth \$20,000,000, which fortune he accumulated in lumber, transportation, and banking, is to be the central figure in an investigation decided upon by the Senate yesterday. His election to the Senate as the result of a State-wide primary is to be probed. He is well-preserved, takes a great deal of physical exercise, and is entirely willing to be investigated. He voted for the resolution which proposes an inquiry into alleged corrupt methods and practices.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.
The investigation is the result of a memorial from the Wisconsin legislature, which asked the Senate to take action. A subcommittee of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, under the chairmanship of Senator Heyburn, looked into the matter and yesterday made an exhaustive report recommending an investigation of the charges. The resolution, which is in the language of the Lorimer resolution, was agreed to unanimously, but later, when it was found that it made no provision for expenses, it was recalled and will be adopted again to-morrow. The investigating committee will probably have Senator Heyburn as chairman, and its personnel will be chosen from Senators Clapp, Sutherland, Bradley, and Oliver. Republicans and Democrats, who are the members of the committee, not engaged in the Lorimer case. There is one vacancy on the committee, caused by the resignation of Senator Bailey, Democrat, a few days ago. The committee will hold its meetings in Madison, Milwaukee, and Duluth, and possibly in Chicago.

Admits Spending \$100,000.
Senator Stephenson, by his own sworn statement, made in accordance with law, admits that he spent a little over \$100,000 in the primary election, to secure the popular endorsement as the Republican candidate for Senator, for the term beginning March 4, 1909. He made a detailed statement of his expenditures, as the State law of Wisconsin requires. It was out of the primary fight that the charges grew, which resulted in a demand for an investigation by the Senate. Senator La Follette, who was elected Wisconsin governor, was behind the demand for an investigation.

Senator Stephenson was formerly identified with the progressive movement in Wisconsin. Five years he had an ambition to occupy a seat in the Senate. He had served two terms in the House. As the result of differences with some of the political opponents among the conservatives in Wisconsin, Mr. Stephenson made common with Robert M. La Follette, and he is said to have given him material assistance in his fight for governor.

Cause of the Quarrel.
Senator La Follette's friends insist that Mr. Stephenson promised Mr. La Follette that in consideration of the latter's help in achieving his life ambition to sit in the Senate that Stephenson would not be a candidate for the full term beginning March, 1909. Mr. Stephenson has always maintained that La Follette misunderstood him and that he gave no promise. The quarrel between the two Senators dates from that disagreement.

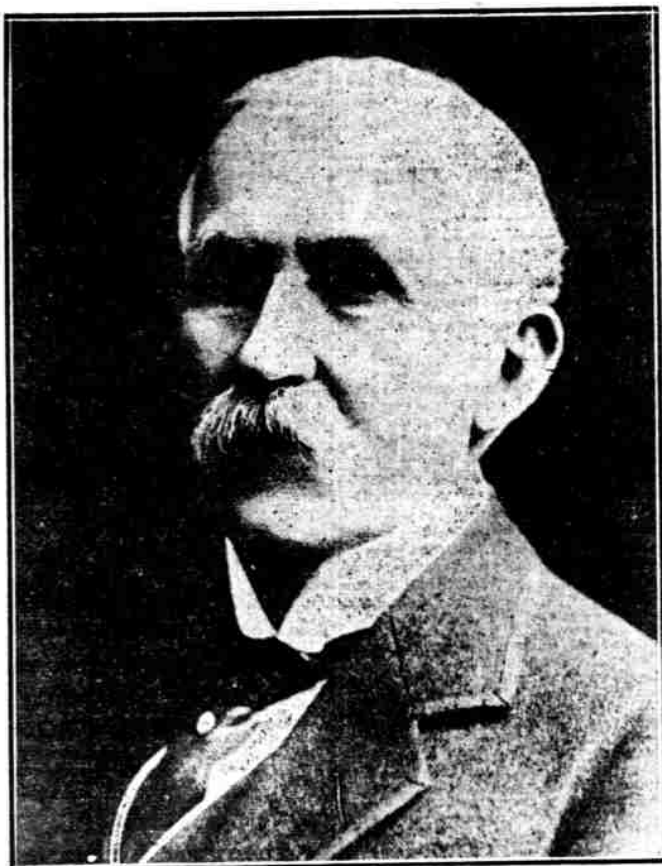
When Senator Stephenson announced his candidacy for re-election Senator La Follette's friends turned on him. The progressives brought out candidates against Mr. Stephenson, but he carried on a vigorous fight and overcame them. Charges of corruption followed, and Senator La Follette's friends carried these into the legislature and secured the adoption of a memorial which has led to the Senate's action taken yesterday.

Inside History Coming Out.
There have been intimations by Senator Stephenson's friends that an investigation would disclose that Mr. Stephenson had spent more money in Wisconsin trying to advance Senator La Follette politically than Mr. Stephenson ever expended in his own interest. It has been whispered around the Senate that Mr. Stephenson has a lot of interesting correspondence bearing upon his relations with his colleagues, and that some of this may come out in the course of the investigation.

Senator La Follette's friends having heard of this talk have declared that it was only an additional reason for the investigation. In fact, Senator La Follette served notice on his colleagues in the Senate that he could not remain silent—view of these insinuations, and that unless the Committee on Privileges and Elections ordered an investigation of the charges, he would carry it around himself. He has had the resolution prepared and has been carrying it around for a week or two waiting for the privilege and elections committee to act.

Senator La Follette's friends insist that most of the money expended by Mr. Stephenson in aid of the progressive movement was put into newspapers which has done service for Mr. Stephenson in politics. Stephenson's friends charge that the Senator was invited to become the Mark Hanna of the State.

FAVORS SUPERANNUATION SYSTEM.



HON. FRANKLIN MACVEAGH.

lette Presidential boom, and declined because of the expenditure of funds that it would have entailed.

His friends say that as recently as the Chicago convention of 1908 Mr. Stephenson was called upon to pay the expenses of the La Follette headquarters in Chicago, and that he actually contributed a considerable sum toward deferring it. It is likely that the Stephenson investigation will be almost as exciting as the Lorimer case, and the outcome will be watched with interest by national political leaders who have found Wisconsin politics something of an enigma.

Was a State-wide Primary.
Another phase of the investigation that promises to be instructive is as to just how far the use of money may influence a direct election for United States Senator. The Stephenson case differs from the Lorimer case in that the charges of corruption are made not against a legislator who elected Mr. Stephenson, but against the great Republican electors of the State of Wisconsin, the "plain people" who voted in the primary.

One of the strongest arguments advanced in the Senate in favor of the direct election of Senators has been that the legislatures could be so easily corrupted, but that the voters at large, the "composite citizen," on whose virtue Senator Bourne relied so tenderly in his speech in the Senate recently, was above such sordid consideration.

DEATHS WITHIN MONTH.

Senator W. P. Frye, of Maine.

Representative G. W. Klipp, of Pennsylvania.

Representative A. C. Mitchell, of Kansas.

Representative G. W. Gordon, of Tennessee.

Representative H. C. Loudenslager, of New Jersey.

LOUDENSLAGER IS DEAD.

Representative Served New Jersey District Ten Consecutive Terms.

Camden, N. J., Aug. 12.—Representative Henry Clay Loudenslager died at 10:30 this morning at his home in Camden, N. J. He had been ill a little more than a month, typhoid fever being the direct cause of death.

Loudenslager represented the First Congressional district of New Jersey, comprising the counties of Camden, Gloucester, and Salem, in ten successive Congresses. He was born on a farm in Marlinton, N. J., on May 22, 1852. He attended the public schools, and at the age of twenty left the farm and went into the produce commission business in Philadelphia. He continued in business until 1882, when he was elected county clerk of Gloucester County, N. J. He was re-elected in 1887. In 1893 he entered the Fifty-third Congress, and remained in the House of Representatives until his death.

Loudenslager was secretary of the Republican Congressional campaign committee in 1906, and was elected to the Senate in 1908. He was chairman of the Committee on Pensions, and a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs in the last House.

Loudenslager lived at Paulsboro, N. J. He was married to Kate L. Salisbury, of Paulsboro, in 1872. He was a thirty-second degree Mason.

Women on Jury Venue.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 12.—Thirty-four women are included in the venire of 129 jurors drawn for the September term of the Superior Court in this city.

HOBSON IS NO LONGER IN A WARLIKE MOOD

He Admits That Togo's Visit May Cement Peace Between the United States and Japan.

special to The Washington Herald.

Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 12.—Representative Hobson, of Alabama, original discoverer of the yellow peril, who has been strangely silent since Admiral Togo landed in this country, has been located in this city. He registered at a local hotel yesterday and was interviewed. He did not hesitate to discuss Togo's visit.

"The visit of Admiral Togo, of the Japanese imperial council," he said, "may do something to cement more closely peace between the greatest nation of the Occident and the greatest nation of the Orient. The officer who drove Russia from Asia was a great leader, and the battle in which he won his lasting fame, when he halted the final attempt of the Czar to relieve the blockaded coast line, marked him as one of the greatest modern military commanders."

When asked about the probability of war with the Japanese and the "yellow peril," Congressman Hobson smiled and shook his head. "I should not, at this time, like to express myself on a subject that is patent to even the casual observer, and that is that Japan is expanding rapidly. There is no doubt that it is guided as a nation by a group of well-informed innovators who are losing no possible means to equip their nation with knowledge and facilities which will enable it to cope with those nations which grew while it stagnated. Japan may be described in one word; it is alert. That means that it has men, money, and might. How it will use them is open to conjecture. Certainly it will become, if it is not already, the leader of the island continent. Its strength on an island located in the finest strategic position in Asia is tremendous. It may be a great power for good; it might as well be a great power for evil."

AT WORK UPON FREE LIST BILL

Disagreement Will Be Reported to Both Houses.

VOTE TO-MORROW IN DOUBT

The Amendments Putting Lemons on the Free List and Limiting Free Trade in Meats and Cereals to Canada Are the Stumbling Blocks—Other Points Settled.

The tariff question will be a live issue before both Houses of Congress to-morrow. The conference on the free list bill decided yesterday afternoon to report disagreement to both Houses on the amendments putting lemons on the free list and the Kern amendment limiting free trade in meats and cereals with Canada. The Senate will vote on these two amendments either to recede from the Kern amendment and concur in the House amendment, or to insist that the Kern amendment remain in the bill and that the House recede from its amendment putting lemons on the free list.

Senator La Follette was absent from the meeting yesterday on account of a temporary illness. He was at the Senate early in the morning, but was compelled to go home. The Senate will meet at 10 o'clock to-morrow. There was considerable speculation yesterday as to what the attitude of the Senate will be toward the reported disagreement.

Changes in the Vote.

It will be recalled that the motion to accept the farmers' free list bill as it came from the House failed on a tie vote. Since then the Republicans have lost a seat in the Senate through the death of Senator Frye. This is a net loss of one. If the governor of Maine should appoint Senator Frye's successor in time to enable him to present his credentials, the Republicans would make a net gain of one. This would make a difference of two votes.

The presence in Washington of the Hon. Frank MacVeagh, who is still holding the governor's office in that Commonwealth, with a very agreeable reputation for any good luck. Meanwhile, it looks as if the Democrats have lost one vote, due to the change in sentiment of Senator Simmons. In most of them retirement is compulsory at seventy years of age, and the age limit for new employees in order to be entitled to draw a pension varies from thirty-five to forty-five years of age. The pension paid varies according to salary or wages and length of service. The rate of pension is to be the same as the salary or wages received by the employee before reaching the pensionable age.

A political issue arose over the way in which the party in power executed the law, that became very acute, and it was said this was one of the issues which brought the present party to power. A new law was enacted in 1907, providing for a flat rate of assessment of 5 per cent on all salaries, and each employee gets back, with a 4 per cent interest, all that he pays in. This is not enough to buy an adequate annuity for the older clerks, as the government contributes nothing, and the law on that account is not generally satisfactory.

Changes in England.

The first general pension law in Great Britain was passed in 1910 and was a straight government pension system. It proved very expensive, and in 1912 was abolished, and employees were compelled to contribute.

This new law lasted only two years, and was followed by another period of free pensions, which in turn was soon succeeded by a law compelling contributions. The main objection to this was that nothing was returned in case an employee died or resigned before reaching retirement. The last law of 1910 extended the benefits of the pension fund to those who resign and to the dependents of those who die in service.

New Zealand started with a straight pension law, but, finding it expensive, abolished it for all thereafter entering the civil service; then came a compulsory savings scheme, and later a compulsory life insurance law. Both proved inadequate for superannuated employees, and in 1907 a pension law was passed requiring contributions from all employees of from 5 to 10 per cent of the salary, dependent on age at time of entering the service. This law was expected to be a self-supporting fund, and the government contributes what is necessary to pay all pensions in full.

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Underwood has earned for himself the name of "Idol of the South," say the leaders of the movement, and they are determined to make him a reality.

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A political issue arose over the way in which the party in power executed the law, that became very acute, and it was said this was one of the issues which brought the present party to power. A new law was enacted in 1907, providing for a flat rate of assessment of 5 per cent on all salaries, and each employee gets back, with a 4 per cent interest, all that he pays in. This is not enough to buy an adequate annuity for the older clerks, as the government contributes nothing, and the law on that account is not generally satisfactory.

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SENATE WILL NOT SURRENDER RIGHTS

Continued from Page One.

he left by the proposed committee amendment the contracting parties would be absolutely helpless in the event of one country contending that a dispute was arbitrable and the other that it was not.

National Honor Can Be Arbitrated.

The proposed amendment affects only questions that come within Article I of the treaty—questions that are susceptible of settlement by the application of the principles of law and equity. These of course do not include questions of policy or diplomacy or national honor. They are to be submitted to the joint high commission of inquiry for investigation and recommendation, but the final decision of the commission in these cases are not to have the effect of an arbitral award. The operations of the joint high commission of inquiry in regard to these latter cases are not affected by the amendment adopted yesterday by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The vote in the committee in favor of the amendment was almost three to one. Friends of the administration admitted after the action of the committee was announced that there is no chance of the treaty being ratified at the present session. Some supporters of the administration were very much disheartened over the action of the committee and expressed a fear that the attempt to amend the treaty will be a very serious obstacle in the way of the arbitration movement.

A Campaign of Education.

It is understood that the administration will make no effort now to have the treaties ratified at the present session. In fact, President Taft and his supporters will concentrate their efforts on a view to carrying on a campaign of education on this subject within the next few months.

The Senate in executive session yesterday afternoon considered the advisability of debating the treaties in open session. No decision was reached, but the impression seemed to prevail that the debate should be held in closed doors.

Knox Declines to Comment.

Secretary Knox and other officials of the State Department declined to comment last night on the action of the Senate committee. Obviously, it is uncertain at this time just what will be the result so far as England and France are concerned if the Senate accepts a recommendation of the committee and eliminates this important paragraph. It is certain, though, that the proposed change opens up a very real danger for the Taft program, and it accepted will throw the entire matter back again into diplomatic channels.

The seriousness with which President Taft regards any change in the treaty was indicated in a speech delivered by him the other day at Mountain Lake Park, when he declared that an effort by the Senate to place obstacles in the way of a ratification of the treaty would set the world peace movement back many years.

Cotton Bill Taken Up.

The House cotton bill was made the unfinished business of the Senate on the motion of Senator Smoot. An amendment was offered to the bill by Senator Cummins, revising the metal schedule, and by Senator Overman, reducing the duties in the chemical schedule 25 per cent and changing specific to ad valorem duties.

The House yesterday agreed to make the cotton bill the unfinished business.

In the House there was considerable discussion on the point whether or not the bill should be taken up on the conference report on the wool bill or whether that duty devolved on the House should act first.

The bill was finally taken up, and to-morrow the vote will be taken. It is generally understood that the House will agree to the report and send the bill to the Senate, where it is expected that it will be promptly agreed to and then sent to the President.

The leaders in the House and Senate were saying yesterday that they were confident of an adjournment not later than next Saturday night, and probably as early as Thursday. The cotton bill is the disturbing factor. It is expected that the President's veto, if the bill is passed by Congress, will put an end to the consideration of the cotton bill and expedite adjournment.

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